

considered by the Examiner to be withdrawn, claim 1 is now considered to be withdrawn.

Claims 14 (lines 12 and 13) and claim 17 (lines 9 and 10) have been amended to change “portion” to —member— as suggested by the Examiner.

Claims 14 (line 15) and 17 (line 12) have been amended to correct “for” to --to--.

New claims 18 and 19 have been added. These claims are dependent from claim 17, and are identical to claims 15 and 16 which are dependent from claim 14.

Claims 2-4 have been canceled.

C. The objection to claim 14:

Claim 14 has been objected to on the basis that in line 12 “portion” should be changed to —member—. “Portion” has been changed to —member— in lines 12 and 13.

D. The withdrawal of claim 17:

Claim 17 has been withdrawn from consideration by the Examiner as being directed to a non-elected species. It is respectfully requested that the Examiner reconsider the withdrawal of claim 17.

The elected species, “Species III” are directed to claims readable on FIGS. 6A, 6B, 6C, 7-9. Claim 17 is identical to claim 14 except for the omission of the “inelastic strap portion” appearing at lines 9-11 of claim 14. Claim 17 reads on the “shortened” version of the leash shown in FIG. 9. See page 2 of the specification in which FIGS. 6A, 6B, and 6C are described as being a “third embodiment of the dog leash of the present invention”, and FIG. 9 is described as “a side elevation view of a shortened version of the third embodiment of the dog leash of the present invention”. Claim 17 reads on the leash shown in FIG. 9, and since FIG. 9 is part of Species III, the elected species, claim 17 should not be withdrawn.

It is submitted that since claim 14 has been indicated to be allowable, claim 17 should likewise be allowable.

E. The rejection of claims 1, 3, and 4 under 35 U.S.C. 103:

Claim 1 has been amended to incorporate the limitations of canceled claim 2. Since claim 2 has been withdrawn, claim 1 is now considered to be withdrawn.

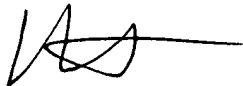
Claims 3 and 4 have been canceled.

F. Allowable subject matter:

Claims 14-16 have been stated to be allowable upon correction of the objection to claim 14. Claim 14 has been amended to overcome this objection, and claims 14-16 are, therefore, now in condition for allowance.

An early Notice of Allowability is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'R. Howard', with a long horizontal line extending to the right.

Robert E. Howard
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